

REMARKS

The election of claims 55 to 69 is confirmed.

The objection to claim 56 has been overcome by rewriting the claim to recite a filtrate pump.

The rejection of claims 66 to 69 as being indefinite has been overcome by amending the preamble to each of these claims.

The rejection of claims 55, 56, 58, 60, 62 64, 65, 67 and 68 as being anticipated by US Patent 5,211,850 (Shettigar) is traversed. Independent claims 55 and 64 have been amended to require the filter membrane to block solutes in blood of greater than 60,000 Daltons in size. The specification at the paragraph bridging pages 27 to 28 supports this amendment. The blood purification filter disclosed in Shettigar has filter membranes that purposely allow passage of heparin and other relatively large solutes *See e.g.*, Shettigar, col. 7, Ins. 33-44. -Accordingly, Shettigar teaches away from a small pore filters used for ultrafiltration. *See e.g.*, Shettigar, col. 28-47. Shettigar does not anticipate the claimed ultrafiltration system having a filter membrane that blocks heparin and other solutes in blood having a size greater than 60,000 Daltons. Shettigars filter has pores sizes up to 1.0 μ m which allows molecules significantly greater than 500,000 Daltons in size to pass through.

Claim 57 has been amended to require a filtration pump that removes filtrate from the filter. Claim 54 requires a filtrate output on the blood filter. Shettigar does not teach that the volume of blood is substantially reduced and its filter system does not provide for

filtrate removal so that the blood can be condensed. Accordingly, Shettigar does not suggest a blood filter for removal of filtrate as is required by claim 57.

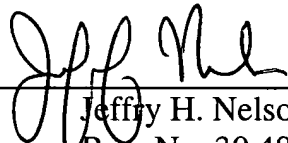
Claim 62 and new claims 70 require the filter to be substantially straight. The U-shaped filter disclosed in Shettigar creates reverse filtration at the exit of the filter. The U-shaped filter causes circulation within the plasma section of the housing facilitating the absorption of contaminants from the plasma. The straight filter recited in claims 62 and 70 is contrary to the Shettigar filter.

The rejection of claims 57, 59, 61, 63 and 69 as being obvious over Shettigar is traversed for substantially the same reasons as stated above. The claims depend on claims 55 and 64 which are patentable over Shettigar for the reasons stated above.

All claims are in good condition for allowance. If any small matter remains outstanding, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of this application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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